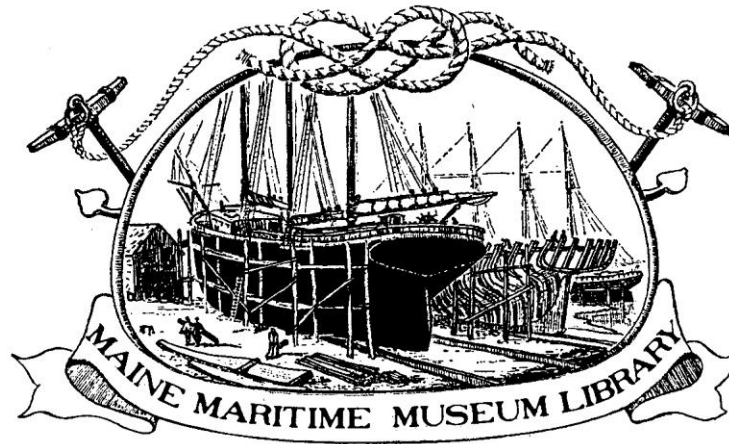


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**Inventory for  
Manuscript Collection  
MS - 637**

**Orissa B. Willmarth Foster Sheppard Papers**

**c. 1832-1854**

by  
Elisabeth Meier  
October 2018

1 folder  
.01 linear feet  
*Accession no. 78.113.10 and 86.85.29*

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## **Abstract**

### **Sheppard, Orissa B. (1811-1864)**

#### **Papers, c. 1832-1864**

1 folder

Widow; citizen of Boxford and Boston, Massachusetts

This collection contains material from the administration and settlement of two estates from which Orissa B. Willmarth Foster Sheppard inherited property. The estates were from Ephraim Foster, Orissa's first husband, and Ezra Willmarth, her father. The documents include wills, administrator's accounts, correspondence with the executors, and notices of probate suits. All the property was in Massachusetts. There is no personal or business material.

Museum purchase from William Hill, Gosshill Books; one letter a gift from Charles E. Burden.

MS-637. Accession #78.113.10 and 86.85.29.

Finding aid (folder level control) in repository.

#### **Added entries—persons:**

Foster, Ephraim (1807-1835)

Sheppard, Orissa B. Willmarth Foster (1811-1864)

Willmarth, Ezra (d. 1847)

#### **Added entries—key terms:**

Administration of estates

Investments

Probate records

## **Acquisition**

This collection was purchased from William Hill, of Gosshill Books, in 1978. It was part of a larger purchase that included the Captain Atwood B. Norton Papers (MS-42), the log-book and slop accounts of the schooner *M.V.B. Chase* (SM 52/1-2), Captain William Patterson Papers (MS-634), Schooner *Elizabeth Howard* Papers (MS-635), Captain Joseph Purington Account Book (MS-88 Box 5/21), the Joseph Cargill papers (MS-413), and the Joseph Dodge papers (MS-636).

A separate gift from Charles E. Burden, which principally contained papers from Captain William Patterson, also had a letter from Hobart Clark, an executor of Ephraim Foster's will. The letter has been filed in this collection.

## **Restrictions**

There are no restrictions on this collection.

## **Physical Condition**

The papers are in good condition.

### **Historical Note**

Orissa Willmarth was the daughter of Ezra and Mary Willmarth. She was born in Rumney, New Hampshire, in 1811, though the family soon moved to Georgetown, Massachusetts. In 1830, Orissa married Ephraim Foster (1807-1835), of neighboring Boxford, MA. Ephraim's father was Simeon Foster of Andover, MA, and his stepmother was Mary Harriman Foster.

After Ephraim Foster's death, Orissa married John H. Sheppard and moved to Boston. She died in Boston in 1864.

### **Scope and Content Note**

This collection contains the wills of Ephraim Foster and Ezra Willmarth and documents related to the administration of Orissa's Willmarth Foster Sheppard's portion of their estates. All of the property mentioned was in Massachusetts. The bulk of the collection is from Ephraim Foster's estate. Most of this is accounts and correspondence from William Johnson and Hobart Clark, the estate's administrators, for more nearly a decade after Foster's death, and notice of a probate court suit in which Orissa claimed that Johnson and Clark were defrauding her of the inheritance. There is no personal correspondence or any material from business or daily life, nor any evidence of maritime activity.

### **Box and Folder List**

Box	Folder	
1	1	Orissa B. Willmarth Foster Sheppard papers